Vol. VIII. Numb. 44

THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on the Posture of Affairs in Flanders, *and the Prospect of our Success. A Comparison between* Lewis *the XIVth*, Pharaoh, *and* Lewis *the XIth, and their Subjects Ground to expect a Downfal of his Tyranny, if we be not wanting in the due Use of Means and solemn Applications to God.*

From Wednesday, June 29. to Saturday, July 2. 1709.

Obs. WHAT News from Abroad, *Roger?* How goes the Campaign in *Flanders?*

Country-m. The Beginning seems to favour us, Master; and I hope the Conclusion of it will crown the Work.

Obs. What Ground have you for that Hope, *Roger?*

Country-m. Why, Master, if the News that came by the last *Ostend* Mail be true, that the *French* Army is so ill paid, that their Men desert in great Numbers, and their Officers dread a general Mutiny, I don't know but it may fulfil the last Part of the Prophecy in the *Scotch Hudibras*, as we have seen the former accomplish'd already.

Obs. Prithee, *Roger*, don't let thy Pate be fill'd with such Conundrums. I hope thou won't turn *Camisar* in thy old Days.

Country-m. No, there's no Fear of that, Master: I have as little Regard for such Kind of Whims, as any Body: but you must own it was a pretty lucky Hit in that Author, to write above thirty [illegible] that

[illegible] Age begin again,
[illegible] France, *or* France *have* Spain.

[illegible] says in a few Lines after, speaking of

[illegible] for Want of Pay,
[illegible] French *a dreadful Day.*

[illegible] to hear of that accomplish'd too.

Obs. With all my Heart, *Roger.* The present ill Posture of the Affairs of *France*, and the repeated Advices of the Calamities of that Country by Death and Poverty, with the Obstinacy and Hardness of the *French* King's Heart, gives me more Ground to think that Judgment is hastening upon him, than your Nonsense from the *Scotch Hudibras*. However, let us not be too confident, nor put too much Trust in the Arm of Flesh; but let our chief Trust be in the Lord God of Hosts, thro' the Merits and Intercession of our Saviour; for Faith in him, is the best Way of putting the Army of Aliens to Flight now, as well as in former Times.

Country-m. I agree with you, Master: and since we may as justly call those Men Aliens to the Common-wealth of Christianity, who have Recourse to the Intercession and Shrines of pretended Saints, as those were to the Common-wealth of *Israel*, who put their Confidence in *Baal*, and other Idols, we have good Reason to expect the Downfal of the *French* Tyrant, if we be found in the Way of our Duty, and make as publick and serious Applications to God Almighty, as he and his People do to their Saints and Shrines. Besides, Master, his renewing, or rather augmenting the Persecution of his Protestant Subjects in the Galleys, and elsewhere, at this Juncture, looks so like *Pharaoh*'s Case, that I take it to be a strong Presumption, that he is hastening to *Pharaoh*'s Exit.

Obs. We must leave all those Things to God, *Roger*, tho' I must own, that according to the ordinary Course of Providence, Things seem to have a Tendency that Way, if our Sins and Neglect of God don't prevent it. We know, that when *Pharaoh* threaten'd the Extirpation and final Destruction of the *Israelites*, *Moses* made earnest Application to God, and as you said well last Day, the Prophet *Joel* advis'd the Children of *Israel*, when afflicted with War and Dearth, to sanctify a Fast, and call a solemn Assembly, of which he promis'd them a good Issue, and that their Enemies should be driven into a Land barren and desolate: Which I take to be a sufficient Direction for Christians in all Ages in the like Cases; and if this be practis'd now in a becoming Manner by the Allies, we have Reason to hope, that the *French* shall be drove before us into their own barren and desolate Country, and that their lofty Tyrant shall be effectually humbl'd for his Perjury, Tyranny, and Persecution, in which he continues so obstinate, as to out-brave Heaven it self, like his Predecessor *Pharaoh*, who blasphemously said, *Who is the Lord, that I should obey his Voice to let* Israel *go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let* Israel *go.*

Country-m. Why truly, Master, the Case is so parallel, that he who runs may read it; tho' his Country be destroyd, and exhausted by War, Poverty, Dearth, and contagious Distempers, he seems not to know it, or takes as little Notice of it, as *Pharaoh* did when *Egypt* was destroy'd. He is so far from knowing God, that he has Recourse to his Idols, as *Pharaoh* had to his Magicians; and he is so far from being willing to let go his persecuted Subjects, and his unjust Conquests, that he obstinately refuses both, as *Pharaoh* did to let the *Israelites* go. The Hand of God has wrought Miracles for the Confederates, by giving them signal and unexpected Victories; but the *French* King is still hardend, and this great Effort he now makes to retain his unjust Conquests, and to extirpate the Reformation, looks so like *Pharaoh*'s last Effort, that if our Sins and Neglect of God don't prevent it, I repeat it again, we have Reason to expect he may speedily meet with *Pharaoh*'s Doom.

Obs. There are many Signs of the Wrath of God upon himself and his Subjects, *Roger*; and if he would but read the History of his tyrannical Predecessor, *Lewis* the XIth, wrote by the Great *Commines*, he might see, that God has begun to punish him in the same Manner; and as that haughty and treacherous Prince came much short of him in Wickedness, because he had no Occasion to add an ungrateful Persecution of Religion to his Tyranny, he has Reason to expect that his Punishment will be much greater.

Country-m. Pray, Master, how was *Lewis* the XIth punish'd?

Obs. Why, *Roger*, he that had been a Terror to his Subjects and Neighbours, was by the Hand of God made a *Magor Missabib*, as the Prophet expresses it, or *a Terror to himself.* He grew so jealous and afraid of his own Children and Favourites, that he would scarce admit them to see him, and order'd them to be search'd for hidden Arms. He was so much afraid of Designs against his Life, that he shut himself up in a Sort of Prison, or small House, that he fortify'd with Iron Windows, Spikes, Palisadoes, and Ditches, *&c.* as it look'd more like a *Newgate*, than a Palace; and tho' he had Guards every where about him, nay, in his very Bed-Chamber, he durst not trust them, but continually chang'd them, and order'd the House to be shut up every Night betimes, and his Guards to fire upon any that should offer to come near it,

after

after such an Hour. He was so much afraid that the People should revolt, and that some would usurp the Government, on Pretence of his Incapacity and Retirement, that to continue his Terror, and to let his Subjects know, that he was still able to keep up his Tyranny, he gave continual Orders for cruel Executions; nay, his Rage was so barbarous, and his Tyranny so rooted in his Nature, that being taken with a frantick Fit, and going to the Window, at which those about him were afraid he would throw himself out, and therefore prevented it by carrying him to his Bed, tho' he had then lost his Senses, yet when he recover'd, he thought this to be such a Diminution of his tyrannical Authority, to be contradicted in any Thing, that he turn'd every one of 'em off.

Country-m. That was just like a Fellow I have heard of, Master, who prosecuted another for cutting a Cord that he had hang'd himself up in. But pray go on with your Story; for I perceive the Conscience of a Tyrant is a Hell upon Earth.

Obs. While the Hand of God was thus upon him, *Roger*, by depriving him in a great Measure of his natural Parts, which were very extraordinary, and tho' his Body was consum'd by a wasting Distemper, which reduc'd him to a Skeleton, yet, lest his Enemies Abroad should take Advantage of his Circumstances, he kept up his numerous Armies, oppress'd his Subjects by arbitrary Taxes, to maintain them, sent splendid Ambassies to foreign Courts, where he laid out vast Sums in purchasing Toys and Fooleries, to keep up the Reputation of his Riches; and instead of having Recourse to God for the Recovery of his Health, he sent for foolish Relicts from all the Corners of *Christendom*, and for a Hermit from *Italy*, whom he begg'd in an abject Manner to prolong his Life; and to this poor bigotted Wretch, and his own Physician, he who made all his own Subjects Slaves, became so much a Slave himself, that he dar'd not to disoblige 'em in any Thing; and tho' he continu'd his haughty and tyrannical Conduct towards his own Children, Favourites, and Servants, he was so overaw'd by his Physician, to whom he gave above 10000 Crowns *per* Month, that the insolent Fellow would now and then tell him, I know you intend to send me off, as you have done all the rest, but if you do, he swore a great Oath, that he should not live eight Days after. Thus he, who had invented Iron-Cages with Spikes for Prisoners of State, by the righteous Judgment of God, shut himself up in one little better; and he that had all his Reign been a Terror to others, ended his miserable Life by being a Terror to himself.

Country-m. I thank you for the Story, Master; *Lewis* the XIVth has many of the like Signs of divine Vengeance upon him. He has lately turn'd off his chief Minister and Favourite *Chamillard* in Disgrace, has Divisions in his Court and Camp, is jealous of his own Children and Grand-Children, and the Terror of God has been, and is still upon his Troops, who have entrench'd themselves like *Newgate*-Birds in a Cage, while our Army is attacking *Tournay* in their View; so that we have all the Reason of the World to expect the Downfal of that haughty Tyrant, if we be not wanting to our selves in a due Use of proper Means, with such Application to God, and Dependance upon him, as becomes Christians; but tho' God withheld Judgments from an idolatrous and bloody *Ahab*, and from a Pagan King of *Nineveh*, and his Subjects, upon publick Humiliations, we have no Reason to think he will do the like for those who neglect to seek for it in a national Way.

Advertisements.

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☞ The Circus; or, British Olympicks, a Satyr on the Ring in Hide-Park. Sold by J. Baker, at the Black Boy in Pater-Noster-Row. Price 6 d.

An Advertisement by Mr. Cotton Mather, of New-England, concerning the Book entitl'd, the British Empire in America, by Mr. Oldmixon.

☞ In reading but 86 Pages of what this Writer has given us about New-England, I noted down above 87 gross Mistakes, besides many lesser ones, that I pass'd by; in all which, the History of New-England, that he so unjustly decries, might have given him a truer Information. There is not one Acre-stick in that History, tho' he hints as if there were many: and for others of his Mistakes, 'tis impossible for him to quote one Author. He is equally unhappy in his few Pages about New-York; and for the Commencement he mentions, Page 303, to have been at Virginia in 1700, 'tis a Non-Entity. The Reason of my offering this to the Publick, is, that Justice may be done to Truth, and Readers not impos'd upon. And I offer, when 'tis demanded of me, to make good the Truth of this Advertisement as to his first Volume, for I have not yet seen the second.

Boston in New-England,
Mar. 25. 1709. Cotton Mather

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